LOCAL BREVITIES.

Arisona has a pretty good crop in her famous sandstone quarry at Flagstaff. One high school building in San Francisco uses over a thousand carloads of it. It would be a good losses for the pupils of that school to see the weaderful surroundings of the quarry whence came their building, including the Cliff Dwellings and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.—Pasadeus (Cal.) Star.

The following registered at the Carrollton Hotel during the week: J. P. Watkins. New York; S. L. Smith, Chicago, John H. Hicks, Tempe; R. P. Deesan, Santa Fe, M. M.; Geo. Hester, Los Angeles; Ed Jamison, G. B. Richmund and John Oberly, Phoenix; P. R. Pheipe, Albaquerque; I. B. Allison, Los Angeles; Mrs. A. L. Abbington, Boston; Mrs. H. Ellsworth, FortWorth, Ind.; J. M. Smalley, Kansas City.

The following true bear story was printed in Tuesday's Phoenix Repubcan: Meesrs. L. H. Chalmers and J. E. Walker returned on Sunday morning from a two weeks' fishing excursion on Oak creek, near Flagstaff. Fish are getting scarce in that famous trout stream. Bear are numerous in that vicinity, but the gentlemen were not provided with tackle for bear and consequently they spent no time angling for them. Oue moruing Mr. Walker was standing on the bank of the atream negotiating with a trout when a half grown clunamon cub crashed through the bushes twenty feet away. The Lear saw Walker at the same instant that Walker saw him, but being of greater presence of mind than Mr. Walker, the bear gathered bimself together and ran away. Mr. Walker was intending to do the same thing as soon as he could get his breath. He did change his location anyhow, for knowing something of the habits of bears he thought it was not unlikely that the cub's mamma would be coming along that way.

ASTRONOMICAL.

Some Recent Work of the Lowell Observatory.

During the last year some very important work has been done by the Lowell Observatory which has not as yet been made known to the public at large. Part of this work has been the determination of the orbit of the rapidly moving star B 883. This star was discovered to be double by Prof. S. W. Burnham, a Chicago astronomer, in 1879. It is a small star of about the sixth magnitude, or just large enough to be barely seen with the naked eye on a very clear dark night, and is situated in the constella-

tion Orion. The two components of this binary are always very close to each other, at times showing only as an elongated point of light, even in the great 24-inch telescope. Observations on this star were made here last fait by Dr. See and Mr. Cogshall and were continued during the winter in Mexico. These observations, combined with those of other astronomers have resulted in the determination of the approximate orbit by Dr. See and his discussion of it has been recently published in the "Monthly Notices" of the Boyal Astronomical Society in England.

The most remarkable feature of this star is its extremely short period, being only about five and one-half years, while the next shortest orbit of the visual bluaries is about twice as long. This star furnishes the best connecting link yet discovered between the visual and the spectroscopic binaries.

Other important work has been done by Mr. Douglass in the determination of the rotation periods of two of the satellites of Jupiter. This work was begun by Mr. Douglass some time after the removal of the observatory to Mexico and was continued for several weeks after his return in the spring to Flagstaff.

These satellites are very small bodies and the markings by which the rotation periods were found are very delicate and almost impossible for any but a specially trained eye to see. Their difficulty may be estimated from the fact that with all the large telescopes now in existence, they have never before been seen with any certainty. Mr. Douglass finds the rotation period of the third satellite to be a little over seven days and very nearly the same as its period of revolution about Jupiter. It therefore is very much like our moon in the respect that it always shows the same face to the planet. The fourth satellite was also observed to have similar markings and probably it also has a rotation period very nearly equal to its period of revolution.

From the many drawings made of the surface of the third satellite Mr. Douglass has constructed a map which shows the location on the surface of the principal markings.

This is the best determination yet made of the rotation periods of these bodies, and in fact the only one much better than a guess or an estimate.

The rainy season seems to have seen for good.

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